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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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25 MAR 1970

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley
The Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dillon:

I have received your letter of 27 February in which you state that the Smithsonian Institution would like to have the great stone jar from Laos for the National Collections. I have also received the concurrence of the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Emil Mosbacher, Jr., to this suggested disposition of the jar. This was necessary because a Government official may only accept such a valuable gift on behalf of the United States whereupon its disposition falls within the authority of the Chief of Protocol. At your suggestion, we are arranging with Dr. Clifford Evans for the actual delivery of the jar.

You asked that I send a formal letter of presentation, giving all information possible about the history of the specimen. Except for the background paper on the jars enclosed with my previous letter, I can only reply that we do not know very much about them or this one in particular. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] I would ask that the official records indicate the General presented the jar to the people of the United States in appreciation of their aid and assistance.

I hope the jar will be a valuable addition to your collection and that the General's true feeling of gratitude to the American people in making the gift can, in some way, be conveyed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

O-Addressee via OGC
1-The Director
1-DDCI
1-ExDir-Compt
1-ER
1-DDS
1-FE
1-D/Logistics
1-General Counsel